

Appl. No. : 10/032,215
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A magnetic filter adapter for removing magnetically attractable particles from a fluid, comprising:
 - an adapter body comprising a perforated upper portion and a perforated lower portion;
 - a centrally located opening passing through said perforated upper portion and said perforated lower portion;
 - a removable hollow insert mounted inside said opening, extending through said perforated upper portion and said perforated lower portion, and providing a first threaded portion adapted to engage a threaded stud and a second threaded portion adapted to mount to a filter; and
 - a magnet disposed within said adapter body for removing metallic particles from said fluid.
2. (original) The adapter of Claim 1, wherein said magnet is in the shape of a ring.
3. (currently amended) The adapter of Claim 2, comprising a ring support for mounting said magnet to said adapter body such that a gap exists between said magnet and said perforated upper portion.
4. (currently amended) The adapter of Claim 1, wherein said perforated upper portion comprises at least one sealing gasket.
5. (original) The adapter of Claim 1, wherein said perforated upper portion comprises a circular pattern of perforations.
6. (original) The adapter of Claim 1, wherein said perforated lower portion comprises a circular pattern of perforations.
7. (original) The adapter of Claim 1, wherein said fluid is oil.
8. (original) The adapter of Claim 1, wherein said fluid is transmission fluid.
9. (original) The adapter of Claim 1, wherein said fluid is hydraulic fluid.
10. (currently amended) An adapter for removing metallic particles from a fluid, comprising:

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a cylindrical adapter body comprising a perforated upper portion and a perforated lower portion;

a centrally located opening passing through said perforated upper portion and said perforated lower portion;

a removable hollow insert mounted inside said opening, extending through said perforated upper portion and said perforated lower portion, and providing a first connection means adapted to engage a connection means on a fluid source and a second connection means adapted to mount to a filter; and

a magnet disposed within said adapter body for removing metallic particles from said fluid.

11. (original) The adapter of Claim 10, wherein said first connection means comprises a first threaded portion and said second connection means comprises a second threaded portion.

12. (currently amended) The adapter of Claim 10, wherein said perforated upper portion comprises at least one sealing gasket.

13. (original) The adapter of Claim 10, wherein said perforated upper portion comprises a circular pattern of perforations.

14. (original) The adapter of Claim 10, wherein said perforated lower portion comprises a circular pattern of perforations.

15. (original) The adapter of Claim 1), wherein said fluid source is an automobile engine.

16. (original) The adapter of Claim 10, wherein said magnet is in the shape of a ring.

17. (currently amended) The adapter of Claim 16, comprising a ring support for mounting said magnet to said adapter body such that a gap exists between said magnet and said upper portion.

18. (original) The adapter of Claim 17, wherein said ring support is comprised of three pieces having notches corresponding to the thickness of said magnet.

19. (currently amended) A method of assembly of an adapter for removing metallic particles from a fluid, comprising;

inserting a magnet in a perforated lower portion of a housing of said adapter;

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enclosing said magnet in said adapter by attaching a perforated upper portion of a housing of said adapter to said perforated lower portion; and

inserting a hollow insert in a centrally located opening passing through said perforated upper portion, said perforated lower portion, and said magnet.

20. (currently amended) The method of Claim 19, further comprising attaching a sealing gasket to said perforated upper portion.

21. (currently amended) The method of Claim 19, further comprising, before inserting said magnet in said perforated upper portion, mounting said magnet to a ring support and then inserting said ring support along with said magnet in said perforated lower portion of said adapter.

22. (new) An adapter for removing metallic particles from a fluid, comprising:

an adapter body comprising a perforated upper portion and a perforated lower portion;

a centrally located opening passing through said perforated upper portion and said perforated lower portion;

a hollow insert mounted inside said opening and providing a first connection means adapted to engage a connection means on a fluid source and a second connection means adapted to mount to a filter; and

a magnet disposed within said adapter body for removing metallic particles from said fluid, wherein said magnet has a central opening adapted to circumscribe said hollow insert so as to allow fluid to flow between said hollow insert and said magnet.

23. (new) The adapter of Claim 22, wherein said magnet is in the shape of a ring.

24. (new) The adapter of Claim 23, comprising a ring support for mounting said magnet to said adapter body such that a gap exists between said magnet and said perforated upper portion.

25. (new) The adapter of Claim 22, wherein said upper portion comprises at least one sealing gasket.

26. (new) The adapter of Claim 22, wherein said perforated upper portion comprises a circular pattern of perforations.

27. (new) The adapter of Claim 22, wherein said perforated lower portion comprises a circular pattern of perforations.

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28. (new) The adapter of Claim 22, further comprising a ring support for mounting said magnet to said adapter body such that a gap exists between said magnet and said perforated upper portion.

29. (new) The adapter of Claim 28, wherein said ring support comprises a plurality of magnet holders positioned along an inner periphery of said perforated lower portion.

30. (new) The adapter of Claim 3, wherein said ring support comprises a plurality of magnet holders positioned along an inner periphery of said perforated lower portion.

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SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Savage for the telephonic interview conducted on August 22, 2003. Pending Claims 1, 10, and 19, and proposed new Claim 22 were discussed, along with WIPO publication no. WO 97/26448 to Vogrin.

Applicant proposed amending Claims 1 and 10 to clarify that the hollow insert is "removable" and presented arguments directed to the illustrations of Vogrin showing the central channel 13 formed continuously with the cartridge housing 11. The Examiner indicated that, although the central channel 13 appears to be continuously formed with the cartridge housing, a full translation of the Vogrin reference was needed to clarify whether the central channel illustrated in Figure 1 of Vogrin is removable. The Examiner also noted that the cover 42 illustrated in Figure 3 of Vogrin is removable with respect to the cartridge 11.

Applicant also proposed the addition of new independent Claim 22 directed to an adapter comprising the hollow insert of original Claim 1, and further reciting that the magnet has a central opening adapted to surround the hollow insert so as to allow fluid to flow between the hollow insert and the magnet. The Examiner indicated that new Claim 22 might be allowable over Vogrin.